



# MacBook Air 11" Late 2010 Heat Sink Replacement

Remove the heat sink on your MacBook Air 11" Late 2010.

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## INTRODUCTION

Use this guide to remove the heat sink. Before reinstalling the heat sink, be sure to apply a new layer of [thermal paste](#).



### TOOLS:

- [Arctic Silver ArctiClean](#) (1)
- [Arctic Silver Thermal Paste](#) (1)
- [P5 Pentalobe Screwdriver Retina MacBook Pro and Air](#) (1)
- [Spudger](#) (1)
- [T5 Torx Screwdriver](#) (1)



### PARTS:

- [MacBook Air 11" \(Late 2010\) Heat Sink](#) (1)

## Step 1 — Lower Case



- ✦ Before proceeding, close your computer and lay it on a soft surface top-side down.
- Remove the following ten screws:
  - Two 8 mm 5-point Pentalobe screws
  - Eight 2.5 mm 5-point Pentalobe screws
- ⓘ The special screwdriver needed to remove the eight 5-point Pentalobe screws can be found [here](#).

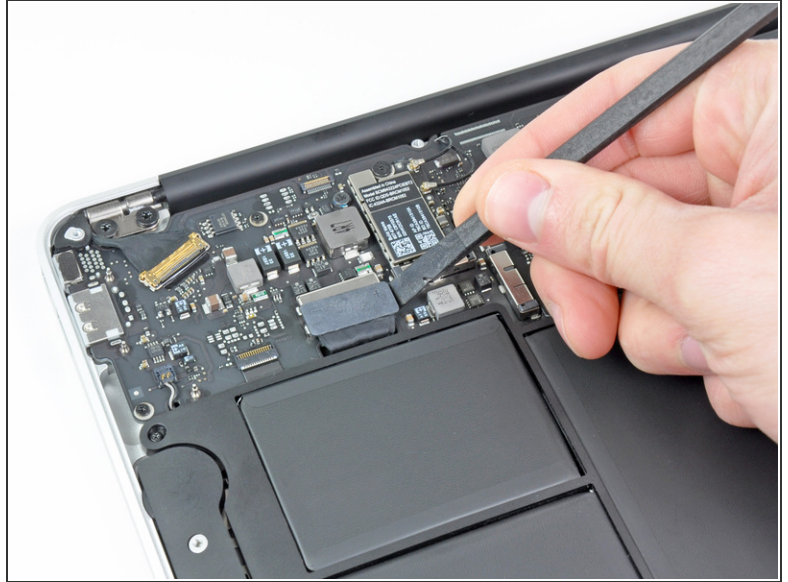
## Step 2




- Wedge your fingers between the display and the lower case and pull upward to pop the lower case off the Air.
- Remove the lower case and set it aside.



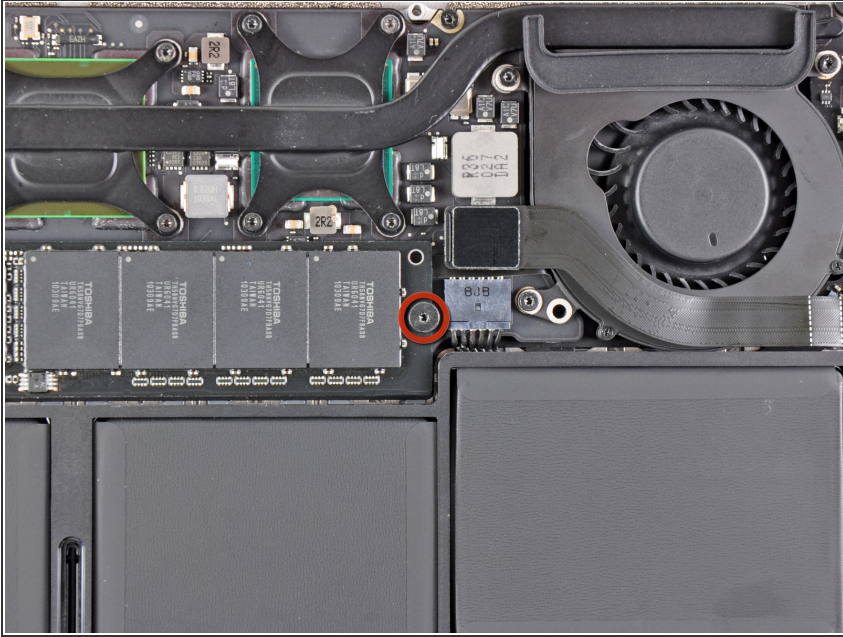
## Step 3 — Battery



 In this step you will disconnect the battery to help avoid shorting out any components during service.

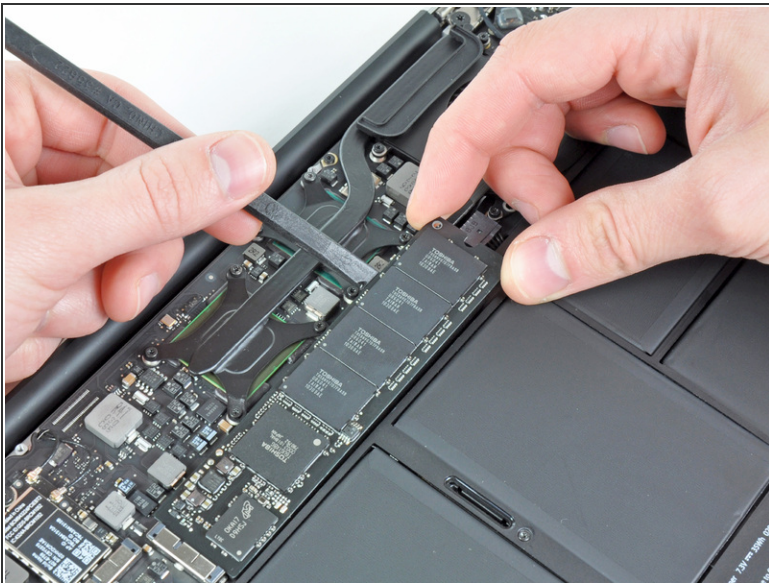
- Use the flat end of a spudger to pry both short sides of the battery connector upward to disconnect it from its socket on the logic board.
- Bend the battery cable slightly away from the logic board so the connector will not accidentally contact its socket.

## Step 4 — Solid-State Drive



- Remove the single 2.9 mm T5 Torx screw securing the SSD to the logic board.

## Step 5



- Use a spudger to help lift the free end of the SSD just enough to grab it with your other hand.

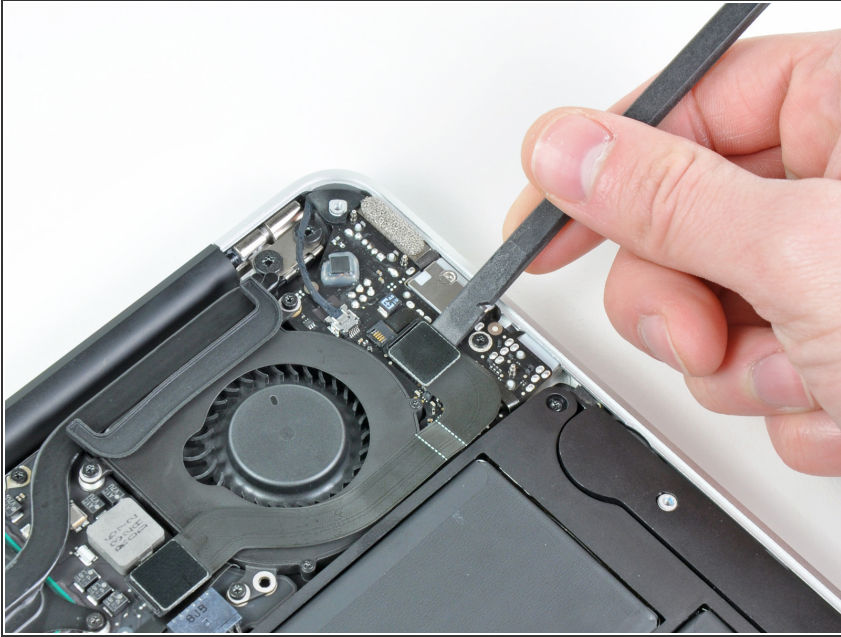
⚠ Do not lift the end of the SSD excessively.

- Pull the drive straight out of its socket and remove it from the logic board.

☑ When reinstalling the SSD, be sure it is properly seated before reinstalling its retaining screw.



## Step 6 — I/O Board Cable



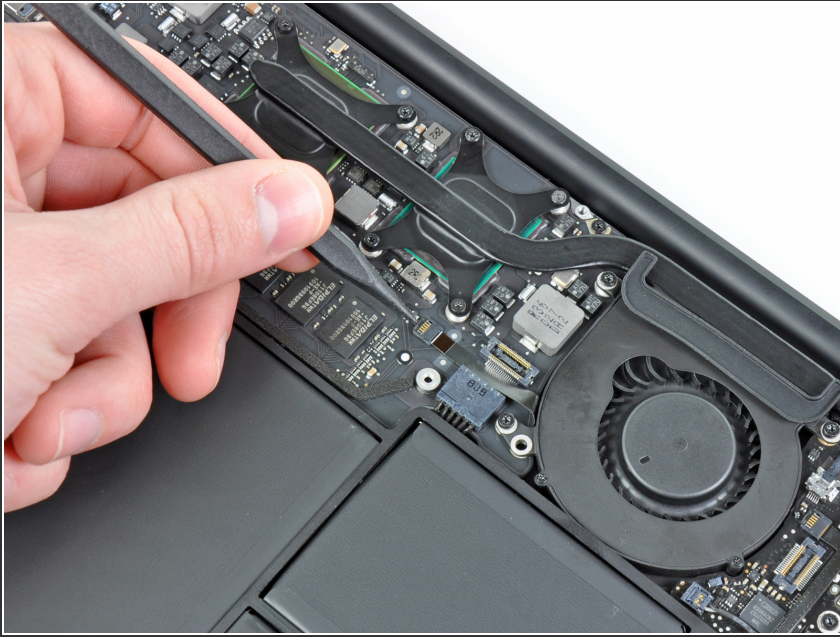
- Use the flat end of a spudger to pry the I/O board cable connector upward out of its socket on the I/O board.

## Step 7



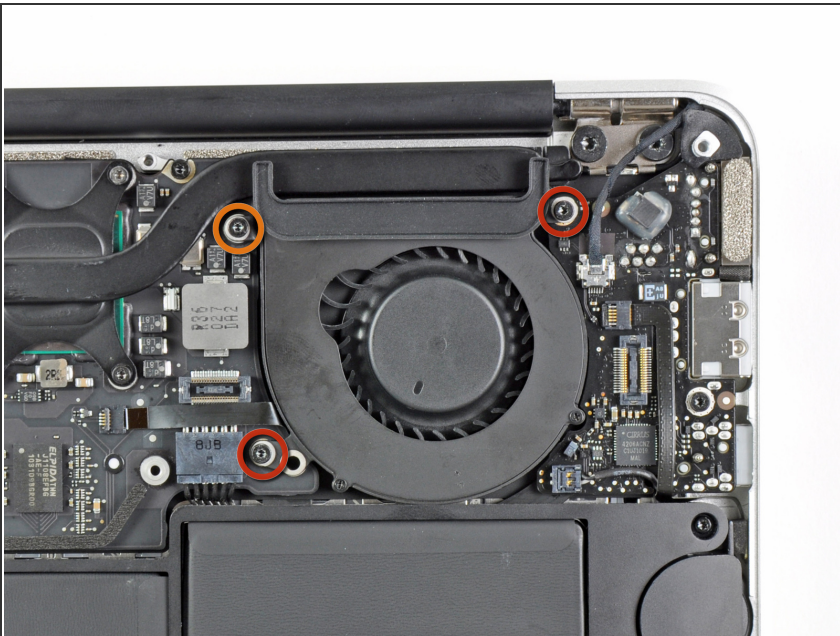
- ⚠ The following connector has an especially deep socket. Use care when disconnecting it.
- While gently pulling the I/O board cable upward near its connection to the logic board, use the tip of a spudger to pry upward on alternating sides of the connector to help "walk" it out of its socket.
- Remove the I/O board cable.

## Step 8 — Fan



- Use the tip of a spudger to carefully flip up the retaining flap on the fan cable ZIF socket.
- ⚠ Be sure you are prying up on the hinged retaining flap, **not** the socket itself.

## Step 9



- Remove the following three screws securing the fan to the upper case:
  - Two 5.2 mm T5 Torx screws
  - One 3.6 mm T5 Torx screw

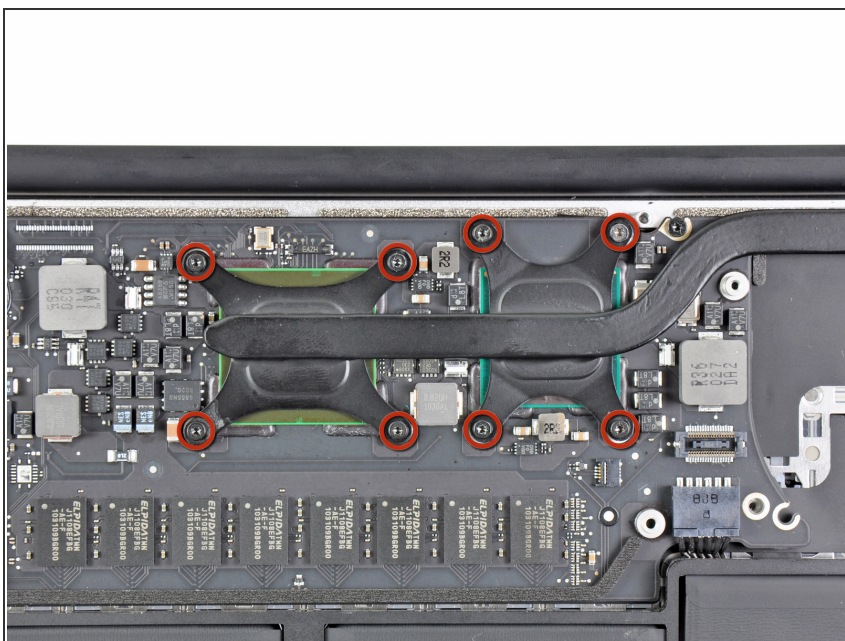


## Step 10



- Lift the fan out of the upper case and carefully pull the fan ribbon cable out of its socket as you remove it from the Air.

## Step 11 — Heat Sink



- Remove the eight 2.5 mm T5 Torx screws securing the heat sink to the logic board.



## Step 12



- ❗ If the heat sink seems to be stuck to the logic board after removing all eight screws, use a spudger to carefully separate the heat sink from the faces of the CPU and GPU.
- Remove the heat sink from the logic board.
- When reinstalling the heat sink, be sure to apply a new layer of [thermal paste](#). If you have never applied thermal paste before, we have a [guide](#) that makes it easy.

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.

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